

grappling with the loss of 49 lives in an early morning August 27, 2006 plane crash—Comair Flight 5191.

The passengers on board Flight 5191 represented the rich diversity and commitment to community emblematic of the Commonwealth. A horse trainer, a UK faculty member, the wife of an East Kentucky University Board Member, newlyweds. A business leader, a youth basketball coach, a technology innovator, and a young father.

Mr. Speaker, all of Kentucky grieves with these families realizing their tremendous loss of a brother, a husband, a sister, a daughter, and our tremendous loss in our community of leaders. I specifically want to recognize my constituents Mike Finley, Hollie Gilbert, John and Scarlett Parsley Hooker, and Marcie Thomason and extend my heartfelt sympathy to their families. Their commitment to southern and eastern Kentucky created jobs and opportunities for young people, helped keep kids in positive pursuits by modeling hard work and supporting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in commending federal, state, and local officials who cooperated not only at the crash site, but throughout Kentucky to respond to the emergency, investigate the accident, and provide assistance to families devastated by the loss of loved ones.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from Kentucky, we offer our most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and all those that were affected.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD TODD RHODES

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Todd Rhodes of Wilmington, North Carolina, who sacrificed his life on August 17, 2006 while valiantly serving his country as a private contractor with Cochise Company in Iraq. Our heartfelt thanks and prayers are for his family and friends in this time of grief.

For eight years, Todd served his country honorably as a member of the United States Marine Corps. After serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was employed as a security specialist with United States Protection Investigation while in Afghanistan, and most recently, with Cochise Company working in Iraq. For twelve years, Todd and his wife, Terry, owned and operated Best Video and Audio in Jacksonville, N.C.

Todd was a loving husband to Terry and a dedicated father to two sons, Shaun Rhodes and Ryan Rhodes, all of Wilmington, with whom he spent many hours teaching them life lessons and individual skills, such as construction and diving. Todd loved life and enjoyed such activities as dancing, diving, tennis and sailing. His memory will be forever cherished by his family and the friends and co-workers whose lives he touched in life's journey.

As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps and a contractor in Iraq, Todd dedicated his career to defending the values this Nation holds dear. By risking his life to ensure the safety of others, he made the ultimate sacrifice. His valiant

actions and steadfast service remind us of the gratitude we feel toward him and all the other servicemen and women and civilians who have given their lives serving as guardians of this great country. Todd was indeed a man of courage and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Richard Todd Rhodes live on in our hearts, and may God's strength and peace be with his family.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MELVIN HILL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I take the time to honor a distinguished veteran from the Commonwealth of Virginia, SFC Melvin Hill. A true patriot for his heroic service to our country, Hill was born on March 26, 1939 in Brooklyn. In 1955 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 18th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. There he was selected to be an instructor at the Airborne School. He was later assigned to Germany, where he was responsible for conducting convoys from Helmstadt, Germany to insure U.S. access to Berlin. On each tour of duty, he also served as a guard at Spandau Prison, which at that time housed Rudolph Hess, Albert Speer, and Baldur von Schirach. In 1964 Hill was accepted for Special Forces training and assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completing this training, he was assigned to the Military Advisory Command in Vietnam.

It was in this capacity that Sergeant Hill was awarded a Silver Star on January 18, 1971 for his fearless actions while serving as Leader of a Combined Reconnaissance Team in November of 1970. In this role, Sergeant Hill courageously led his team from the tailgate of a C-130 aircraft at an altitude of 17,000 feet on the first combat high altitude free fall into hostile territory in the history of the United States Army. His team landed in rugged and dangerous terrain in enemy territory where, despite equipment malfunctions, Sergeant Hill refused to abandon his team. They remained behind enemy lines in the harshest conditions for 5 days where, led by Sergeant Hill, the team gathered sufficient hard intelligence to mark the mission a success. When his transmit voice radio malfunctioned, Sergeant Hill used another device to transmit instructions to his team via Morse code and in this manner triangulated multiple targets for the Air Force. During the extraction from enemy territory, Sergeant Hill was wounded by a bullet to the leg, but due to his courage and leadership, his team was recovered with no losses and no other injuries.

After leading this successful mission, Hill extended his tour of duty to teach high altitude Military Free Fall techniques to other Reconnaissance teams. After retirement from the military, Hill continued to serve his country through a position in the U.S. General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., where he worked for 14 years and was recognized for his innovative approach to Contract Support, winning the Administrator's Meritorious Service Award and a citation from the Governor of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful today to recognize the achievements of SFC Melvin Hill that are so long overdue. His leadership and courage in combat during our nation's time of war require our sincere appreciation. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ARTHUR GEORGE BURRELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bishop Arthur George Burrell. St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ will hold a remembrance dinner in his honor on September 16 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Bishop Burrell began his service to the church in 1947. He worked as a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Church Secretary and Broadcast Announcer until 1962. On April 14, 1962 Bishop C.J. Johnson ordained him and almost a year later he became the pastor of Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ. Under his leadership, the church negotiated the purchase of a new building in 1972 and changed the name to St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ.

During his ministry Bishop Burrell served as the State Sunday School Superintendent from 1975 to 1980 for the Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, and Chairman of the Commission of Budget and Finance. He served as the District Superintendent of the Progressive District and in 2002 he celebrated the Progressive District's Golden Jubilee. Bishop Burrell also served as the National Financier of the International Sunday School Department and in April 1998 he received the Outstanding Service Award to the Church of God in Christ from the Association of Church of God in Christ Business Owners.

Bishop Brooks, with the concurrence of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board of the Church of God in Christ, appointed Bishop Burrell to Assistant Jurisdictional Bishop at the 81st Annual Holy Convocation of the Northeast Michigan (Historic First) Jurisdiction.

In addition to his work for the church, Bishop Burrell retired from General Motors after 35 years of employment. He was married to Norma Burrell for 46 years and they had three sons. Bishop Burrell passed away in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Bishop Arthur George Burrell and St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ as they celebrate his ministry and life.

HONORING NYS POLICE TROOPER JOSEPH A. LONGOBARDO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise and respectfully request the members of this honorable chamber to join me in commemorating the life of Joseph A.